



## Share Child Opportunity Eastern and Northern Uganda (SCOEN)



**SHARE CHILD  
OPPORTUNITY  
EASTERN AND  
NORTHERN  
UGANDA**

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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## Acronyms

SCOEN	Share Child Opportunity Eastern and Northern Uganda
VSLAs	Village Savings and Loans Associations
GBV	Gender Based Violence
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
LCs	Local Councils
CSE	Comprehensive sexuality education
ToT	Training of Trainer
CDO	Community Development Officer
DCDO	District Community Development Officer



## INTRODUCTION

This annual report 2019 is intended to share a record of what the organisation set to do and accomplished during the year. It highlights the context in which SCOEN UGANDA worked; a record of the programmes implemented and achievements; a financial report; existing management and staff members and a list of the publications among others.

While having a regional outlook SCOEN UGANDA works in Soroti districts.

## WHERE SCOEN UGANDA WORKS – ENTIRE SOROTI DISTRICT



## A WORD FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Members of SCOEN UGANDA, with great pleasure I present to you the Network's annual report for the year 2019. This was a year of a lot of great achievements that have largely contributed to the rebranding of SCOEN UGANDA. Together with all our development partners, we are very proud to be part of SCOEN UGANDA's history and making a difference to the lives of millions of Ugandans, in particular women and children.

Despite some challenges SCOEN UGANDA is still able to rally the children and women of Teso to speak with one voice and take concerted effort to uplift their status in the region. I take this opportunity to congratulate the gallant people who have continued to fight against all forms of oppression in all its manifestations.

As we committed ourselves in the Strategic Plan, 2015-2020, SCOEN UGANDA is going to work hard to make the organisation more visible and relevant to all its stakeholders. During the course of the year, various initiatives have been undertaken at the community levels, in strong collaboration with the stakeholders and development partners. I express my sincere gratitude to all the members of SCOEN UGANDA, the Board and most importantly the staff who have turned our ideals into reality.

More than ever before, SCOEN UGANDA is recognized as a unifying force and an authority on children and women's policy issues. We commit ourselves to continue serving all our stakeholders in this regard and ensuring that the children and women's concerns are effectively dealt with at levels of policy making and implementation. I call upon our major partners in the Executive, the Parliament and Judiciary to continue trusting us in our struggle.

I believe that together we can ensure that all Ugandans live in harmony and with dignity.

**Mrs. Okwalinga Grace** – Chairperson Board

## A Message from the Executive Director



It my pleasure to present SCOEN Uganda's 2019 Annual Report along with its, 2019 work plan. It presents an overview of its work and accomplishments in an effort to bring health, education and safety to women and children in Uganda. SCOEN Uganda has been engaged in programs/projects that:

Increase access to information on human rights, gender-based violence and gender equality to women, girls and general community.

Build the capacities of households, institutions and the community in SCOEN program area in reporting and handling GBV incidences

Education Sponsorship for 15 children

Provide the target population with socio-economic livelihood skills to improve family food security and nutrition, access to clean energy for cooking

Develop and spearhead a mechanism for integration networking, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of GBV interventions created and policies effectively working in SCOEN Programme area.

Throughout 2019, we have been reached and built capacity of: 3,680 households within community through drama and peer education, 853 stakeholders/staff/women through trainings/workshops/monitoring reviews/meetings. From the consultations and dialogue, we modified our thematic areas for the year 2019 – 2020 to: Child protection, Maternal Child Health, Water, Hygiene & sanitation, Youth Economic Empowerment and gender equality I would like to immensely thank all SCOEN Uganda's proactive and committed staff, our implementing and funding partners, direct and indirect beneficiaries and other stake holders who have worked tirelessly to make 2015 a success in impacting the lives of women and children in Uganda. I look forward to another year of great work in 2020

Sincerely

Ijangolet .H. Florence – Executive Director

## Vote of Thanks



Thank You, from the Field

My initial reaction to Share Child Opportunity Eastern and Northern has been one of respect and awe for all the work being done -between the households, Care giver's Income Generating Group in the form of VLSAs, and the Community Garden Project. On behalf of Share Child Opportunity Eastern and Northern Uganda I thank you for your continued support and encouragement in our efforts to build a safe and positive environment to honour women and Children.

Haron Lucas Akol

Partner Relations Officer



## ABOUT SCOEN

Share Child Opportunity Eastern and Northern Uganda (SCOEN) is a female-led organization formed in 2010 by women's rights and child welfare workers, activists, and professionals who were particularly concerned about the mistreatment of children and women as a result of the north-eastern Uganda LRA conflict.

Through empowering and mobilizing their participation in the struggle against the Ugandan occupation, the contribution to the development processes, the promotion of their political, economic and civic rights and the expansion of women's access to justice through improving psychological well-being among women and children, and combating gender-based violence. It is registered as a Non-Governmental Organization under Section 16 (1) of the Non-governmental Organization under Ministry of Internal Affairs with Registration No. 11419, established in April 2010 with its head Office in Soroti district in the Eastern Region of Uganda

### Vision

Empowering women and children to foster holistic development

### Mission

To attain gender equality in a Ugandan local community through promoting the social, political, educational and economic participation of women and children in community development programs. SCOEN strives to create a future in which all Ugandan women will be viewed and treated equally as men in all aspects of life; political, economic, social, educational and culturally. We will also seek to continue our role as advocates of children and women's rights, promoter of their capacities and driving force of social change, promoting their participation in the decisions that affect their lives, and amplifying their voices for peace and security at the regional, national and global levels.

### Core values:

- ☞ Service excellence
- ☞ Trust
- ☞ Respect
- ☞ Hope
- ☞ Integrity
- ☞ Innovation

## CONTEXT WITHIN WHICH SCOEN OPERATE

The aftermath of Northern and Eastern long running conflicts has destroyed the region's Asset including infrastructures, and engulfed many lives while displacements still to continue due to the periodically sliding conflicts and the rapidly political changes which the country let to become host mass destruction of public and private sectors, chaotic, weak administration and weak rule of law and without effective implementation.

These prolonged civil conflicts in Teso Sub Region have fostered a lost generation who has no experience of a kind of effective Government and poor access to basic social services particularly education and employment opportunities.

The most victims of the war, cattle rustling amongst youth, women and children Therefore, to enable all Teso community to make choices about the way that they want their region to be governed and lead prosperous future

So in response to this, the Leadership of Share Child Opportunity Eastern and Northern Uganda, together with the well-wishers came up with an idea of supporting the women and children whose parents were victims of war, HIV/AIDS, Cattle rustling and drought in Teso region to engage protection on human rights, humanitarian issues, developments and Capacity Buildings with action research which based on participatory approach by all the levels of the community on their priorities for the future through SCOEN.

### Our Contributors

Thank you to all of our donors, including those who have chosen to remain anonymous, for your ongoing commitment to Share Child Opportunity Eastern and Northern Uganda. Our gratitude also goes to those who have supported the organization and our Care Giver's Income Generating Group by making a purchase.

Thank you to our entire major Contributors, monthly individual donors, one-time donors, gift in kind donors. We could not do this work without you, and for your loyal support we are immensely grateful. Thank you, our founder members, who generously donated monthly to support SCOEN.

## Development Partners

Girls First Fund

Kitchen Charities Table Trust, UK.

Global Giving

Givingway

Dave Bonner and Cathie UK

Graham Robbin UK

Moley Kattie USA

GBV Prevention Network

Girls Not Brides – Global Partnership to End Child Marriage

End Violence Against Children – Global Partnership

Sexual Rights Network Africa

We are grateful to the various District authorities and Government departments for their cooperation, moral and technical support in addressing the problem of vulnerable children.

We thank all the different volunteers and interns who visited the organization and worked with us.

Your interaction with us brought in new insights and energy in our work.

We thank all the children, staff and the Board of Directors for their commitment to the work of restoring the lives of children and single mothers.

**Finally, we thank God who provided for us throughout this year.**

## FOCUS AREA I: Child Protection

SCOEN seeks to ensure that all children are protected from all forms of exploitation, neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse through effective national and community-based child protection systems.

Child protection is a key component of SCOEN programmes. It cuts across all our project implementation and advocacy and we have continued to make great strides toward strengthening child protection systems.

### **Our priorities in Child Protection: -**

- ***Communities working together to protect children***

One of SCOEN's key strengths is its close and long-term collaboration with communities and bringing communities together to drive long-term change. This has helped us gain important insights into how to strengthen community-based child protection mechanisms and how to link them effectively to government mechanisms. This work is now one of our global priorities for the coming years.

We recognise that communities, families and children themselves are an integral part of any effective child protection system. As such, we focus on bringing the participants together to collaborate in building a long-term protective environment for children in the communities where we work.

We also support collective action by community members against harmful practices and discrimination towards specific groups or individuals. We enable community members to monitor issues and advocate for change amongst local and national duty-bearers and service providers.

- ***Families providing care and protection***

Families and caregivers are a key safety net for children. By supporting and prioritising them, we can help ensure they are in a stronger position to create and maintain a positive family environment, and play a critical role in the holistic development of children.

We work with families and caregivers as active participants in positive parenting and to develop a better understanding of the causes and effects of violence against children, including harmful practices. This forms a foundation on which to develop their commitment to tackling violence against children in families.

- **Governments developing integrated child protection systems and services**

We support robust research to provide evidence for appropriate government action on child protection. This involves working in collaboration with national and district authorities to establish, improve and enforce appropriate child protection legislation and policies.

We also work in alliance with other civil society organisations to monitor and advocate for comprehensive, integrated child protection systems, and support and engage with regional and international bodies and networks to promote adherence to recognised international instruments and standards.

Our aim is for staff in child-related services, such as education, health, social services and police/judiciary services, to be more aware of violence against children and to be better able to identify, prevent and respond to it. Together, we aim to improve public monitoring and information systems on child protection issues, and are encouraging collaboration and dialogue between communities and child protection services. This includes identifying gaps and ways to improve services.

- **Children and youth contributing to their own protection**

We are committed to supporting children to be more knowledgeable, committed and confident to recognise, prevent and seek help for all forms of violence against them, and to make them more aware of the protection services and support mechanisms that are available to them.

Key to our approach is supporting children to unite against peer-on-peer violence including bullying and gender-based violence, to mobilise around child protection issues and to work in partnership with civil society and service providers to end violence. We also support them in protecting themselves in emergency situations, creating opportunities for them to speak out and influence others about their right to protection, and building their confidence to achieve this.

## **Behaviour change communication and human rights**

SCOEN Uganda's behaviour change communication and human rights program focuses on a number of issues ranging from community education and advocacy for the rights of women and girls as human rights, prevention of violence against women and girls in public and private spaces, referral and linkage of survivors of gender based violence to specialized service providers for follow up support aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of women and girls. We were able to contract one drama group at Awoja, designed IEC materials and conduct community dialogue meetings as indicated in the table below.



## **Development and translation of drama scripts on human rights, GBV and gender equality**

SCOEN Uganda in consultation with the beneficiaries and stakeholders in communities we operate in, have been pioneering designing of drama scripts. So far, only basic messages have been designed that the drama group contracted use to educate community. Due to inadequate funds, the scripts are still in process of being developed. Nevertheless, the drama group has still continued to educate community through tailor made messages and with the help of community volunteers and other avenues like community dialogue meetings.

## **Contract drama groups to educate and create awareness on human rights, GBV and gender equality**

Awareness and education are done through music, dance and drama, video shows, peer education and small group discussions. SCOEN Uganda supports community-based women music dance and drama (MDD) groups to conduct drama shows to educate communities. The MDD shows are reinforced with Peer-to-peer education and, and follow-up and referral for clients.

By the end of 2015, one drama group comprising of both men and women (7male and 18 female) had been contracted to educate communities. Their education activities target issues in relation to rejection of myths, misconception, and fight against unnecessary HIV/AIDS related discrimination, empowerment of PLWAs to promote rights and to inform them about available HIV/AIDS services. Attention of all people in general and those in authority in particular to accept the reality of HIV and to recognize the rights of PLWAs will be drawn. Moving forward, SCOEN Uganda will continue to work with this group and also facilitate community volunteers to continue educating community because this drama group has empowered community in various capacities.

## **Designing and printing IEC materials**

Through consultative meetings, trainings and dialogue with implementing partners, beneficiaries and other stake holders, SCOEN Uganda was able to design and print 5 assorted IEC materials incorporating all the program areas. The materials were in form of leaflets and banners. Also 50 T-shirts were printed and distributed to community volunteers and other beneficiaries

## Capacity Building and Support for Survivors

Despite great strides made by the international human rights activists, existing legislation, legal provisions and gender responsive policies advocating for women's rights worldwide, many remain at risk with no protection, access to critical services or avenues to seek justice. Better services survivors of GBV including access to medicine, counselling and other support(s) care are needed. SCOEN Uganda in partnership with other stakeholders' builds capacity of GBV survivors and supports initiatives by women affected by Gender Based Violence to demand their rights and involve more and more women and other stakeholders in campaigns and education activities.

### 2019 – 16 Days of Activism Campaign

Share Child Opportunity Eastern and Northern Uganda (SCOEN) received The Action and Advocacy Kit from GBV Prevention Network, where by SCOEN is a member. The Kit contained the following materials that organizations will use for their activism:

- Up to 200 full colour posters
- A Poster Discussion Guide aimed at facilitating discussions within your community
- "Prevent Violence Against Women" purple ribbons
- "Prevent Violence Against Women" bandanas for your public events
- A Campaign Information Sheet
- A Worksheet for organizations to tailor the campaign to the reality of their context
- A Campaign Activity Guide suggested creative activities that organizations used to prioritize the retention of girl's in school
- Media Talking Points



right to education in situations of violent conflict and relative peace, and in various education settings.

At the regional level, the GBV Prevention Network focused on the retention of women & girls in the education system and explored discrimination and experiences of violence constrain girls' ability to remain in and/or benefit from the current education system. Members of the Network urged leaders and community members to ensure girls remain in school and complete their education.

## Preventing and responding to child marriages and early unions

The concept is an endeavour to strengthen girl, the dignity of the girl child and her status in the two sub counties of Soroti District seeks to motivate a sustained behaviour change towards girls in the community with special reference to addressing child marriage.



By providing adolescent girls and young women with training to lead and setting up "Girls' Parliaments", enabling them to become change agents and to contribute to raising community awareness about children's rights, child marriage, and women's sexual reproductive health and rights.

With objective to create a platform that promotes critical reflection that allows for questioning of beliefs, myths and practices in order to realize a change in social norms to accelerate the abandonment of Child Marriage.

Girls Parliament will create an integrated awareness service to improve knowledge around health services and child marriage, by understanding the needs of the community effect ground-level change on a number of fronts. The most noteworthy include, for both girls and parents, increased information dissemination and knowledge about SRHR and Child Marriage awareness about the harmful effects of child marriage, the importance of girls' education and the legal consequences of child marriage. In addition, with the adolescent girls increased awareness of SRH services. Deepened understanding



of communities about their situation, current practices, interests, existing opportunities, and helps devise mitigating strategies for sustainable behaviour change; enhanced accountability and stimulates action and a sense of ownership of agreed interventions by the community; Safe and supportive space for parents to inform themselves and talk with other parents and families. Parents knowledgeable with the information needed to better protect and support their daughters in matters relating to sexual and reproductive health, equipped with the knowledge they need to be effective advocates of girls' and women's rights able to take action, alongside other parents and community members, to end child marriage.

## Advancing girls' leadership by working directly with girls



Conducted "Girls' Parliaments" through which girls engaged with key stakeholders like police and child protection unit, political as community advocacy to end child marriage in the communities at sub county and district level. 70 girls trained to lead the Girls parliament, and 285 Adolescent girls and young women aged 13-24 years and participate in the Girls parliament, Conducted Sexual Reproductive

Health Right and Gender Based Violence mentoring and role modelling for in 5 schools and 14 communities through debates, poetry and MDD reaching 210 Adolescent girls and young women.

Conducted training of 25 trainers of peer educators on Life skills based Comprehensive sexuality education who conducted peer educations on Life skills based Comprehensive sexuality education sessions for 520 girls and 304 boys.

## Mobilizing families, communities, and influencers

Conducted Training of Trainers (4 volunteers AGYW, 6 community based structured members) as community facilitators to undertake 'Parents' Schools who conducted 'Parents' Schools' session in 10 school communities and identify key protection threats and community driven strategies to mitigate against protection threats. Conducted monthly girls-community Radio talk shows and ran spot message on Teso Broad casting FM for 12 months this increase out engagement with the community that SCOEN continued to consult the SCOEN office through calls on the report cases and follow ups



Researched and developed project content i.e. training manuals, IEC messages, social media messages etc. and translation of content to local language “Ateso

## Successes and Challenges

The project has registered significant achievements in the period under review as follows:

Communities especially women and adolescent girls who were mobilized by CBTs, LCs and volunteers in their respective parishes were equipped with more knowledge on mitigating against protection threats, early pregnancy, and sexual violence reporting. The Community Development Officer from Arapai Sub county

facilitated four community sensitization meetings conducted in villages of Alurugun, Onyakai , Amoru and Omagoro in Amoru parish and Obutiei, Ojingai, Mugana and Awasi villages in Arapai parish, all in Arapai sub county and the probation & Welfare Officer from Soroti District facilitated training and community sensitization meetings conducted in different cells of Northern Division which included cell B4&5, B6&7, B2&3, A6, Asinge Cell, Aregorego Cell, Aliabu cell, and Usuk cell in wards of Camp Swahili, Kichinjanji and Madera. AGYW in particular were provided with information that enables them to become change agents in their communities and to contribute to raising community awareness about children's rights, child marriage, and women's sexual and reproductive health and rights. This proved to be very effective as the women and adolescent girls showed their understanding of all information given by actively participating in the discussions and asking relevant questions. During this activity, 25 AGYW, 10 adult women and 15 men were empowered with knowledge they need to be effective advocates of girls' and women's rights and to be able to take-action, alongside other parents and community members, to end child marriage.

25 peer educators received knowledge in Life skills based Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), and SRHR and responsibilities in order to share accurate information and RH support with their peers. The activity targeted youth peer educators from two parishes in Arapai Sub County and three wards from Northern division. Peer Educators were trained in the 10 basic SRH rights where trainers emphasized that these were entitlements to get the highest standard of health care that applies to all people regardless of where they live, their gender, age, race, religion, ethnicity, or social standing. Peer educators became equipped with accurate and detailed information on Child marriage –consequences and prevention, and able to research child marriage in their community how to prevent while exploring gender.

SCOEN has mobilized, organized the targeted communities, held stakeholders' meetings with the District and Sub County leaders; 2 Community Development



Officers, 2 Police Officers, 15 Local Councils one and three, 2 parish chiefs, 3 town agents, 1 town clerk, 1 Senior Accounts Assistant, 15 Para-social workers, 7 women representatives, 30 clan leaders and 30 religious leaders who warmly welcomed us and vowed to support the implementation of the project. During this activity the district and sub county technical team were able to identify the different parishes and villages in Arapai sub county and Northern Division with highest child marriage and teenage pregnancy cases. This activity reached 371 stakeholders (218 women and 153 men)

The SCOEN staff trained by the facilitator from FIDA-Uganda, equipping the staff with knowledge and skills on child protection and safeguarding procedures for ease implementation of the project with dealing with the vulnerable communities.

Girls' Parliaments sessions through which girls engaged with key stakeholders like police and child protection unit, political as community advocacy to end child marriage in the communities at sub county and district level was conducted adolescent girls and young women equipped with knowledge to participate in

the dialogues, the dialogues registered participation from the Child and Family Protection Unit office, Children advocate, child brides who have dropped out of school, schools' girls, LC ones, women councillors, clan and religious leaders, parents who attended parent schools, many parents gave testimonies who some

of their daughter were given second chances in life and are excelling; these activities reached 349 girls, 62 men, and 132 adult women. The school dropout who are the victims of child marriage were identified with the help of local councils, clan leader and religious leaders this was so helpful as the community is involved and owning the project. During this activity, the community outreach officers together with the community development officer of Arapai Sub County and district Probation and welfare Officer conducted the training of both in and out of schools' girls in the school's communities of Tukum, Angai, onyakai, Arapai and Odudui in Arapai Sub County and Kichinjanji, Soroti Islamic Primary Schools and Soroti Community Senior Secondary School in Northern Division. All these trainings were fruitful 60 school girls, 30 school drop outs, 7 senior women teachers and the area 14 local council ones equipped with the knowledge to be aware and confident to participate in open discussions on SRHR and child marriage issues in girls' parliaments dialogues.

We held meetings with the local leaders of different target areas from cell B4 & 5, B6 & 7, B1, B2 & 3, A6 and Asinge, Aregorego in Northern Division, and Tukum, Morunagatuny, Dakabela, Odudui, Arapai, Angai, Olocho Awasi, Mugana, Omagoro, Alurugun, Amoru, Onyakai, Obutei, Ojingai, and Aloet C villages in Arapai Sub County this also included 2 clan leaders and 2 religious' leaders from every cell/village and parish women councilors. All the leaders committed to be

part of the project willing to participate in community meetings and dialogues between communities and girls regarding addressing gaps in SRHR service delivery to prevent and respond to child marriage and early unions.

Mentoring and role modelling for in and out of school girls through debates, poetry and MDD, that include peer education - guidance and counselling sessions conducted in Soroti Islamic primary school, Kichinjanji primary school and Soroti Community Secondary School by the Community Outreach Officers and peer educators/volunteers, mentoring and role modelling sessions availed AGYW with information regarding addressing gaps in SRHR/GBV service delivery, consequences and prevention of child marriage among themselves, general body hygiene and sanitation, roles and duties of children in schools and at home.

Parents Schools session conducted in 10 school communities to identify key protection threats and identify community driven strategies to mitigate against protection threats, in these sessions, parents aired out many concerns and we realised most of them unaware of the case management and reporting, criticizing children rights these therefore strengthened the involvement of child protection and family unit from police and advocates to be part of these session. These sessions have reach 67 males and 80 females from the parishes of Amoru, Arapai and wards of Madera, Camp Swahili and Kichinjanji. This seems to be a good platform for male involvement as key decision makers in homes and with key roles and responsibilities in women issues, it was imperative that men participate in RH awareness and girl child protection activities.

Voicing and video interviews (survive stories, testimonies, ideas, experiences and knowledge from young women who want to speak about their sexuality, rights and hopes in an open and positive way, presenting stories on how they overcome obstacles and what they feel needs to change) conducted reaching 226 community members; more of these stories are yet be screened during evenings and road shows where survive stories and testimonies are shown to the communities this November onwards the many testimonies and ready for screening now; there also testimonies we have got from the Girls Not Brides that are essential but require copyright permission for translation to the local languages of Kumam and Ateso, some of the Girls Not Birds videos require premium payment access and live streaming.

Ending Child marriage Spot Messages broadcasted at Teso Broadcasting Services (TBS FM) with 6-DJ mentions every day – SCOEN is also allocated 30 Minutes of talk time. The budget has not been friendly for talk shows.

Research and development project content i.e. training manuals, IEC messages, social media messages etc. and translation of content to local language “Ateso - SCOEN adopted the training manual from the Girls Not Brides on youth activism to end child marriages simplified and powerful manual, 25 key messages

developed and translated into Ateso local language and 4,000 leaflets printed and disseminated.

14 Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) groups established 9 functioning with 171 current membership of child brides and victims of teenage pregnancy. We have observed increased social action, acceptance, and visibility around investing in and supporting girls, and generating shifts in social expectations relating to girls, advocacy for an enabling environment that protects the rights of adolescent girls.

In Arapai sub county, where many girls are promised into marriage at very young ages, SCOEN staff have helped to launch child rights clubs to encourage the return of child brides to schools and to advocate against child marriage, initiatives have taken on the interlinked issues of child marriage and sexual violence at schools, creating girls clubs, running trainings, and establishing child protection teams. This is to deliver a holistic package of services to address teen pregnancy and the sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls and young women - including trainings, provision of menstrual hygiene packs and economic strengthening initiatives.

## Impact

Engaged and empowered local actors to identify challenges and take action in their own communities is a powerful mechanism for addressing child marriage and other forms of violence against children.

Community Change is especially important in fragile contexts, where the social contract between governments and citizens is broken. An engaged community can also contribute to a decrease in child neglect, improved nutrition, and greater child participation in household and community decisions.

## Challenges or obstacles

Social and cultural barriers: Some rural communities still consider discussions concerning reproductive health and sex education a taboo. During the trainings, some community members feared to freely express themselves with regard to sexuality issues. Some parents often found it embarrassing to discuss these topics in public. SCOEN used participatory approaches during community sensitisation meetings like discussions, Question and Answer, Role-play and others in which young people and their parents learnt how to communicate with each other about reproductive health and sex education topics.

## Lesson learnt

- a) Programming that is segmented by age and life stage makes it possible to carefully tailor messages. This can be critical given the different roles of mothers and fathers in perpetuating child marriage and the different developmental needs of adolescents of different ages.
- b) Peer-to-peer training can be very powerful if facilitators receive adequate training.
- c) Awareness-raising about the law against child marriage is a necessary but insufficient condition for combating child marriage.
- d) Local elders, especially the men who generally uphold social norms, should be included more systematically in community conversations and awareness-raising efforts.

## Implications and Future Directions

Supporting young people to lead the work on ending child marriage and teen pregnancy through youth-led social movements, there are good examples of effective advocacy, but SCOEN still needs to make its influencing expertise more systematic, including more effective advocacy at the national level around budget allocation. Currently, too little resources from governments are going towards the things that will help end child marriages and teen pregnancies, such as basic education. For this to change, SCOEN and allies need to work together to shift the priorities of governments.

Using strategic litigation to provoke changes to laws in order to protect children's rights and ensure the enforcement of these changes. Setting up credible M&E systems that effectively monitor and track SCOEN's work and impact. The organisation needs to be able to measure its impacts, quantify these, and assess their cost effectiveness. These results can then be used to demand accountability.

Conducting broader research on the determinants of child marriages and teen pregnancy, as well as the overall impact of the work conducted in order to continue documenting and learning from experience, especially across contexts and over time.

## Civil society organisations:

- Support youth-led social movements to scale up action against child marriage and teen pregnancy.
- Create positive alternatives for young people instead of child marriage, otherwise changes such as getting girls out of early marriages will not last. Education needs to become the alternative that girls and boys want to pursue.

- Expand the focus of programming to include urban areas, especially informal settlements, so as to move away from the current over-focus on rural areas.
- Expand the focus of programming to include how we address child marriage and sexual exploitation in emergency contexts i.e. the case of COVID-19.
- Design, implement, monitor and evaluate gender-transformative programming that addresses the root causes of child marriage, including control of adolescent girls' sexuality. There is a need to explore the drivers of this harmful practice in a way that has the potential to create lasting change.
- Ensure child marriage programming places girls at the centre - building their life skills, their political consciousness, and their agency to open up alternative life options beyond child marriage. Additionally, support communities in recognising, analysing and deconstructing the social and gender norms that place women and girls at a disadvantage in all societies.
- Engage men and boys with methodologies that support them to recognise, question and act against unequal divisions of power in society.

### **Traditional authorities:**

- Work with traditional and religious leaders to provide awareness about the crucial role they play in social norm change and advancing equality for girls and young women.

### **Government departments:**

- Incentivise education and increase the quality of education so that girls have real alternatives to child marriage.
  - Ensure the effective implementation of such legislation by engaging, sensitising and providing relevant training to judges, as well as to traditional, community and religious leaders on child marriage, teen pregnancy and child rights.
  - Provide young people with sexual and reproductive health services to reduce teen pregnancy.
  - Allocate budgets to support commitments to end child marriage and teen pregnancy and follow through with the implementation of these commitments.
  - Develop coordinated multi-sectoral approaches that connect child marriage and teen pregnancy initiatives to broader development goals.
- e) Improving incentives (including low-cost items such as t-shirts or tea/coffee) to engage in community dialogue initiatives may motivate more community members to attend.
- f) Local leaders play a vital role in community acceptance and participation in project activities. This supports realization of project outcomes. In addition,



leaders are very knowledgeable about local government programs that would complement the project activities.

- g) Counselling young people through focus group discussions helps to correct and clarify collective misconceptions about reproductive health related issues. This promotes informed decisions about sexual relationships, pregnancy and marriage among young people.
- h) Changing community rigid attitudes towards girl child education is a slow and a gradual process that will take some time, because some communities are so attached to their cultural practices and beliefs that perpetrate early child marriages and early unions in their areas, this requires continuous sensitization.
- i) On the other hand, SCOEN was able identified several programme weaknesses. Specifically, this project is not targeting adults and boys as a core – particularly parents and religious officials – with enough direct education, meaning that, even when girls' aspirations are transformed, they are often not given the opportunity to pursue different trajectories.

## Focus Area II: Water Hygiene & Sanitation

### Our priorities in Water, hygiene and sanitation

- Access to clean water and sanitation
- Community led total sanitation
- Integration
- Working with government and institutions

### Water Situation

Project implemented by SCOEN funded by Kitchen Charities Table Trust

### Girl friendly latrines to boost girls school attendance

Overriding goal of the project is to ensure that Girls from the selected schools in



Northern Division, Arapai and Gweri Sub Counties in Soroti District, Eastern Uganda will not have to miss school simply because they are menstruating. The project aims to install sanitary facilities by construction 5 VIP Latrines each with a water tank, well-furnished changing room (tap water from the tank) for girls, and provision hand washing facilities to support vulnerable children and youth, 4

school in Northern Division, Gweri and Arapai Sub County will get a 4 stances pit-latrines with two washing facilities each.

### Project objectives:

- To improve school attendance among pupils between the ages of 10 and 17 years in primary;
- To increase access to vulnerable adolescent girls with sanitary towels and comprehensive menstrual hygiene management knowledge and risk awareness of HIV/AIDS among in-school and out of school girls between the ages 10 to 17 years;
- To increase the self-esteem of needy boys and girls between ages 10 to 17 years;
- Provide the required toilet and sanitation facilities, exclusively for the use of girls, in proportion to the number of girls in the schools.
- Undertake the required capacity building and training of local personnel to ensure the smooth implementation and sustainability of the intervention. Female teachers will be identified and trained to train the girls on menstruation cycles and care for menstruation periods



- Undertake initial planning on the future expansion of sanitation facilities to water-closet type facilities when piped water might be available and provide guidelines which might be used to implement such an expansion.

- The provision of safe water and sanitation facilities in schools is a first step towards a healthy physical learning environment benefiting

both learning and health.

## SCOEN Board of Directors 2019

First and last name	Role on the governing body	Gender identity
Ijangolet Hellen	Director and Secretary Board	Female
Okwalinga Grace	Chairperson Board	Female
Odelle Jackeline	In-charge Child Protection	Female
Akello Tabitha	Member	Female
Robert Odicha	Treasurer	Male
Anyait Judith	Member	Female
Arono Joyce	Member	Female

## MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

Name	Position
Naikoba Rebecca	Project manager
Ariokot Agnes	Community Outreach Officer
Achieng Grace	Community Outreach Officer
Akol Haron Lucas	Partner relations Officer
Ameede Tabitha	Officer Administrator
Acom Immaculate	Accountant
Anyait Judith	GBV Officer
Isiku Anna	Child Development Officer

# Share Child Opportunity Eastern and Northern (SCOEN)

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